National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, 10 cases of cholera were reported from Narela Zone as positive, during May-June, 1989. No contact cases were detected in the area and no deaths occurred.

(b) Delhi Administration has investigated the matter and found some deficiencies in chlorination. Seven persons including one Assistant Engineer have been suspended On account of defaults in ensuring regular and adequate chlorination.

Excluding of telephone services from COPRA

59. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMU NICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecommunications Department has issued a circular recently to the State Telecom, circles stating that telephone services are not goverened by Consumers Protection Act (COPRA); and

(b) if so,what are the reasons for excluding telephone services from COPRA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COM-MUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b)
Yes, Sir. The circular was issued after consulting the Law Ministry. The matter is, however, pending before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

Prevention against Gastroenteritis ill the Capital

60. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arty preventive mea-uies have since been taken' by Goer nment against breaking out of gastroenteritis cases during the current rainy season in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Yes. The following preventive measures have been taken to prevent' the spread of gastro-enteritis in the capital:

(i) Supply of safe drinking water in all areas both through tankers to the JJ clusters and individual water connections in resettlement colonies and regularised un-authorised co lonies. Also installation of deep hand pumps in JJ clus ters;

(ii) Shallow hand pumps have been made de-operationalised in the areas where these pumps were located in close proximity of sullage and swamps. Those pumps which could not be removed, have been painted red indicating as unsafe;

(iii) Cleaning of septic tanks of community latrines and es-tablishments of sulabh socha-layas in selected areas;

(iv) Removal of garbage & desil-ting of drains;

(v) Distribution of Hallogen tablets to ensure chlorinated drinking water;

(vi) Extensive health education campaign and' promotion of oral rehydration therapy through distribution of ORS packets through All Government/Semi Governnietit an private hospitals and dispensa: ries;

(vii) Improvement of over-all medical care facilities.

(c) Assistance in the form of medical supplies is provided as and when required by the Delhi Administration.

Valuation for Insurance of Silver Parcels

61. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

. (a) whether it is a fact that the maximum valuation for which silver parcels can be insured is Rs, 10,000/- and that this limit was fixed more .than two decades ago;

(b) whether the value of silver has increased more "than 30 times since then; and

(c) if so, whether the. maximum . limit for insured silver parcels is proposed to be raised to rupees one lakh; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The present limit of Rs. 10,000/- was fixed in 1975.

(b) This is being ascertained from Ministry of finance.

(c) At present there is no proposal to increase the limit of insurance to Rupees one lakh as this would greatly increase the risks involved in the transmission and handling of mails.

Population Control Programme

62. SHRI C. LAKSHMANNA: "Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a set back to the population control programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the growth rate of population during the first four years of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) how does it compare with the estimated growth rate of population for the same period?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The sample Registration Systems (SRS) estimates of annual birth and death rates are the source of information available for deter mining growth rate of population in the years intervening the two census years. The latest available Sample Registration Systems (SRS) estimates are for 1987. Henok is not possible at the stage to assess performance for the Seventh Plan period as a whole. Based upon the information available the Natural Growlhrate of population,(difference between the Birth Rate and Death Rate) for the years, 1985—87, is given below:

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural Growth Rate(%)
1985 .	32.9	11.8	2.1
1986 .	32.4	11.1	2.1
1987 .	32.0	10.8	2.1

(c) The Seventh Five Year Plan had envisaged a population growth of 1.9% per annum in the last year of the Seventh Plan. It is 0.2% per annum short of the final target in the above years.